

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 111518Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4331

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: PRAVDA ON DETENTE

1. SUMMARY. SIGNED PRAVDA COMMENTARY BY THAT PAPER'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (VASIL'YEV) ON SEPT 11 CONTINUES ARBATOV LINE THAT ATTACKS ON DETENTE IN THE U.S. HAVE STEPPED UP SINCE HELSINKI AND "ARE CONTINUING TO THIS DAY".

VASIL'YEV ALSO ECHOES IN GENERAL WAY ARBATOV'S ANALYSIS OF OPPOSITION TO DETENTE IN THE U.S., CLAIMING THAT STILL-SUBSTANTIAL REACTIONARY FORCES ARE ABLE TO CAPITALIZE ON ANTICOMMUNIST PREJUDICES SURVIVING FROM COLD WAR TIMES.

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END SUMMARY.

2. VASIL'YEV BEGINS ARTICLE WITH USUAL LENGTHY PROLOGUE QUOTING VARIOUS PROMINENT (SPARKMAN) AND NOT SO PROMINENT AMERICANS ON BENEFITS OF THE DETENTE RELATIONSHIP,. PREPARING GROUND FOR HIS DECLARATION THAT "RIGHT-THINKING AMERICANS, THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE" SHARE THOSE VIEWS. PREDICTABLE "HOWEVER" PARAGRAPHS WARNING AGAINST ENEMIES OF DETENTE BEGIN AT THIS POINT WITH CONTENTION THAT ATTACKS ON DETENTE "HAVE NOTICEABLY INCREASED... IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS...HAVE BECOME MORE SYSTEMATIC." VASIL'YEV CONTINUES THAT THESE "MALICIOUS EFFORTS TO CONFUSE PEOPLE, TO SOW MISTRUST IN THE PEACE-LOVING FOREIGN POLICY OF THE USSR HAVE BECOME ESPECIALLY WIDE-SPREAD IN THE DAYS FOLLOWING CSCE. THEY ARE CONTINUING TO THIS DAY".

3. HE EXPLAINS, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE AN OVERSIMPLIFICATION TO PORTRAY OPPOSITION TO DETENTE AS STEMMING FROM SMALL GROUPS OF REACTIONARY PEOPLE ARRAYED AGAINST THE MAJORITY OF AMERICAN PEOPLE. HE LEAPS ONTO A LINE FROM A RECENT JAMES RESTON COMMENTARY TO EFFECT THAT "THE WORLD IS CHANGING FASTER THAN (AMERICAN) AWARENESS AND INSTITUTIONS", AND CONCLUDES THAT THE ENEMIES OF DETENTE ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS "INERTIA" OF EARLIER AMERICAN ANTICOMMUNIST PREJUDICES IN THEIR EFFORT TO RESURRECT THE COLD WAR. VASIL'YEV NEVERTHELESS ENDS ARTICLE ON NOTE OF OPTIMISM, CONFIDENT THAT AMERICANS ARE BECOMING CONVINCED THAT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE.
STOESSEL

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